

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 2, 2009
Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 1:15 p.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Jo Blacketer, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Daniel Elsener, Steve Gabet, David Shane, Vicki Snyder, Neil Pickett, Mike Pettibone and James Edwards were present. Board member Sarah O'Brien was not present.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Statement of the Chair

Dr. Bennett said the Professional Standards Advisory Board will meet September 3 to consider beginning the rule making process on the proposed licensing rules. A draft was brought forward by the Department of Education. The Professional Standards Advisory Board felt revisions needed to be made. One or two more work sessions may be needed before the final revisions are put in place.

Dr. Bennett also discussed the presentation by former Governor Jeb Bush at the Education Roundtable meeting. Governor Bush also mentioned that a large number of teachers in Florida are alternatively certified. Governor Bush discussed Florida's accountability system, which uses an A-F grading scale, looks at growth, and includes a component that requires growth by the bottom 20 percent of students in a school to ensure that all students progress.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Dr. Eric Ban, Principal, Crown Point High School, joined the Board electronically, for the Spotlight on Learning presentation.

Crown Point High School has developed an academic partnership with Purdue University Calumet and Indiana University Northwest. The goal of the academic partnership is to reduce the cost of post secondary education by up to 90 percent while dramatically increasing college and workforce readiness, and attainment for all students. The academic partnership meets the needs of 21st Century Learners and equips all students with the knowledge and skills they need to engage, experience, and excel in today's global economy.

Dr. Ban said that "during the first year of the academic partnership, families will save over \$700,000 in college tuition from our university partners."

V. Board Member Comments

Dr. Bennett discussed the implementation of the growth model that was presented at the Education Roundtable meeting. Dr. Bennett said the Rooney Foundation and Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, and his staff have done phenomenal work with the growth model process. Best practices and school effectiveness will be identified in this model.

Mr. Pettibone thanked Dr. Bennett for arranging the time on September 1 for a State Board retreat. Mr. Pettibone also said he has had numerous individuals within the school corporation and outside the school corporation thank him, on behalf of the State Board, for discontinuing fall assessment tests.

Mr. Pettibone also discussed the Model School conference he attended in Dallas, Texas, with Bill Daggett as guest speaker. One important thing mentioned was the need to build relationships at the beginning of each school year and then give students rigor. They will accept it.

Mr. Pettibone mentioned the book Global Achievement Gap and the theory that we have allowed ourselves to become complacent. We need to change this.

Mr. Elsener said he attended the Education Roundtable meeting and Governor Bush did a great job. He too has heard educators say the State Board move to change testing from fall to spring was appreciated and it was done very smoothly.

Mr. Elsener also discussed the need to have high expectations, freedom, and accurate measurement and to make sure there are consequences and rewards for performance.

Mrs. Blacketor discussed her concern regarding the use and abuse of substitute teachers in terms of instructional time and the huge impact this has to have on student learning. Mrs. Blacketor said she is also very interested in best practices.

Mr. Zaring said he and Mr. Shane discussed the idea that the Common School Fund loans give the DOE the opportunity to pursue Race to the Top. More information on this will come at a later date.

Mr. Shane said that everything the Board and DOE is doing now is learning focused and we must continue to focus on children. Failure is not an option.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Martha Nightenburger.

VIII. Discussion

Lance Rhodes, Chief Financial Officer, gave an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and said 75 percent of Title I schools have all the necessary paperwork in and are drawing those funds. IDEA funds are operating at about 80 percent, and preschool numbers are similar.

Mr. Rhodes said there are still some schools that have not turned in their assurance forms, have not established their fund/centers, or have not asked for a draw on the money.

Dale Chu, Senior Advisor for School Leadership and Policy gave an update on technical assistance to schools. Mr. Chu said the DOE is moving quickly. There are 23 schools, 70 percent of which are high schools that will be receiving technical assistance visits. Those 23 schools are in their fourth consecutive year of not meeting the targets of P.L. 221.

The department is in the process of working with a vendor to help with the capacity to build those teams and the goal as outlined in statute is to provide expert support to these specific schools to help them help themselves.

Mr. Chu said the model, in terms of metrics, is a framework developed by Mass Insight, which has written one of the best frameworks for school turnaround.

Schools do not have to accept the technical assistance, but they must accept the consequences if they continue to fail to meet the requirements of P.L. 221 two years from now.

The technical assistance teams will begin the review process in October. All reviews will be completed the end of November, and as reviews are completed, teams will begin to engage with the schools. Local business leaders, mayors, and city council members will be informed of the process, which needs to be transparent to the whole community.

Mr. Elsener suggested that Board members come back in October for approval of a resolution – emphasizing that this is a serious issue.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on legislative issues. Board members were provided with an update from Neil Ruddock, Legislative Analyst, and Emily Shelman, Communications Consultant, regarding activities of the interim study committee on education. The committee is scheduled to have its first meeting on September 3.

Mr. Zaring discussed strategic planning issues and said each month the Board will visit their list of upcoming discussion topics and make sure they are holding themselves to this calendar.

Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer discussed assessment and accountability issues. Mr. Bruce said it is important to remember that new ISTEP test results are a baseline. Many changes have occurred in our assessment tests, including the time of the year the test is given, the format of the test, new cut scores, and a new test blueprint. School corporations have received their test results, and the public release of scores will occur in about two weeks.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of final orders in administrative adjudications where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VI, A]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School petition for Saint Paul's Lutheran School. [Agenda item X, A]

- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School petition for Mooresville Christian Academy. [Agenda item X, B]
- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School petition renewal for Evansville Day School. [Agenda item X, C]
- E. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School petition for South Bend Hebrew Day School. [Agenda item X, D]
- F. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School petition for Patriot Academy/Indiana National Guard. [Agenda item X, E]

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Dr. Peggy Wild, Career Technical Education Specialist, presented a request for adoption of personal financial responsibility curriculum guidelines.

Mr. Elsener moved for approval. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of administrative policies for the Common School Fund.

Mrs. Blacketor made a motion to adopt items 1 – 10 of the Administrative Policies for the Common School Fund, eliminate item 11 for now, and approve an application period from September 21 through October 16. Dr. Griffith-Adell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of publication of notice of intent to readopt rules scheduled to expire January 1, 2010.

Mr. Elsener moved for approval. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mrs. Blacketor said she will attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) annual conference, scheduled for October 14-17, 2009, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Pettibone said he will try to attend.

State Board of Education
September 2, 2009
Page Six

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a list of State Board meeting dates for calendar year 2010.

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gabet moved for adjournment. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

